

2010 Census: It's About Us

Have you heard? The Census in Schools **It's About Us** program is ready for your classroom! **Visit www.census.gov/schools today!**

Quick-Start

TEACHING GUIDE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES GRADES 9-12




VALUABLE MINI-LESSONS INSIDE!

Try these quick lessons with your students, then visit **www.census.gov/schools** for even more **FREE** resources.

2010 CENSUS IN SCHOOLS

It's about us



Welcome to a new multi-lesson program from the U.S. Census Bureau. This quick-start guide introduces you to a variety of **FREE** lessons and resources available online. The guide also features activities that can jump-start census excitement in your classroom!

Here are just a few of the things that *It's About Us* can bring to your classroom:

- Standards-based social studies lessons
- Engaging and interactive student worksheets
- Hands-on application of civics, history, geography, and mapping concepts
- In-class assessment opportunities

FREE

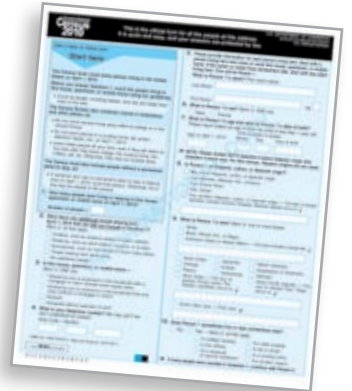
Lessons, worksheets, assessments, and resources are available online at www.census.gov/schools.

The 2010 Census In Your School

The census happens only once every 10 years. Government at all levels will rely on the data from the 2010 Census to make decisions that affect you, your students, and their families.

What does the census mean for you and your students?

A full and accurate census response is crucial to services you and your students depend on, including Title 1 allocations and school improvements. In March 2010, the Census Bureau will deliver a short questionnaire to every household in the nation. Through this program, you can help your students and their parents understand why their participation matters.



Mini-lessons

Turn the page for mini-lessons.

These quick activities are perfect for building student interest in this exciting moment in our history.

Scope and Sequence

Review the chart on the next page

for an overview of how the **It's About Us** lessons fit into your curriculum.

Build Excitement in Your Classroom

- 1. TRY A MINI-ACTIVITY:** Use one of the hands-on ideas in this quick-start guide to introduce students to the 2010 Census and what it means to them.
- 2. DISPLAY THE CLASSROOM MAP:** Post the enclosed map in an area of your classroom where students can get up close to real-world census data.
- 3. MAKE CONNECTIONS:** Review the Scope and Sequence chart to see how the Census in Schools program fits into your curriculum.
- 4. GET FREE LESSON PLANS:** Download the entire Census in Schools social studies program for grades 9-12 at www.census.gov/schools.
- 5. HOST A COUNTDOWN:** Create a Census Countdown Planner and organize a different activity for each month leading up to Census Day on April 1, 2010.

Scope and Sequence

SOCIAL STUDIES 9–12

It's About Us focuses on four major educational strands. Download these FREE lessons at www.census.gov/schools.

Lesson	Strand	Curriculum Connections	Skills & Objectives
1 A Nation Counts	About the Census	History, Civics	Understand the census and its historical role; recognize the importance of apportionment; use a time line with respect to census development
2 Numbers Tell a Story	Managing Data	History, Civics, Geography	Connect census data to historical events; analyze census data for social and economic significance
3 What's the Point?	About the Census	History, Civics, Geography	Identify who uses census data and how; trace impact of census data; present findings in graphic format
4 Census and Apportionment	Managing Data	History, Civics, Geography	Describe the role that census data play in upholding the principle of “one person, one vote”
5 Census and Redistricting	About the Census	Civics, Geography	Learn about the use of redistricting data; explore congressional districts
6 Mapping the Census	Map Literacy	History, Geography	Learn about cartography; examine differences between data and their representation; utilize mapmaking
7 Reshaping the Nation	Map Literacy	Geography	Learn how to read and use a cartogram; explore new ways to represent data
8 A Slice of the Census	About the Census	History, Civics, Geography	Explain the importance of census questions; describe how the concept of privacy has changed since the first census; explain the measures taken to protect the confidentiality of personal information on the census
9 The Role of Individuals and Groups in the Census	Community Participation	History, Civics, Geography	Describe the role of individuals, government, and other groups in the census
10 Getting Active in the Census	Community Participation	History, Civics, Geography	Identify ways of participating in the census; recognize need for civic action
11 Projections and the Census	Managing Data	History, Civics, Geography	Connect census data and history; analyze census data to make predictions for the future
12 What Do You Know?	About the Census	History, Civics, Geography	Demonstrate understanding of the importance of the census; identify essential concepts from Census in Schools lessons

Sources: NCSS (National Council of Social Studies), National Geography Standards, National Standards for Civics and Government

It's About Us **Mini-lessons**

Introduce the 2010 Census with these hands-on activities.

MINI-LESSON 1: A Growing Country

GOAL: To understand causes and effects of population growth



HISTORY

Directions:

1. Take a close look at the Population Growth inset on the bottom right corner of the wall map. Encourage students to consider the population growth that the country has experienced over the years.
2. Point out that between 1900 and 1960 the country's population increased at different rates. Divide students into six groups. Assign each group a different decade starting with 1910 and ending in 1960.
3. Ask students to conduct research about the decade they have been assigned in order to discover some causes of population growth. Ask: *What contributed to the population increase during your decade?*
4. Lead a class discussion about the six decades. Ask students to think about similarities among the decades that may have contributed to the population increases. Discuss how increases varied among decades (e.g., population only increased by 7% between 1930 and 1940, while it increased by 18.5% between 1950 and 1960).
5. Encourage further discussion of population growth by downloading *A Nation Counts* and *Projections and the Census* at www.census.gov/schools.

MINI-LESSON 2: Money Mapping

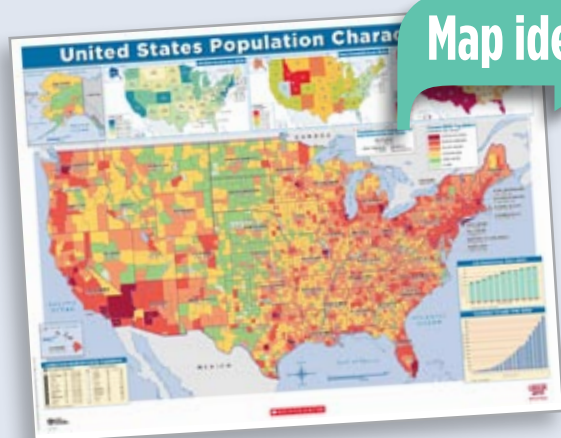
GOAL: To understand how maps can be used to convey information



GEOGRAPHY

Directions:

1. Ask students to examine the Median Income Per State inset. Point out where the median income is highest in the country and where it is lowest.
2. Invite students to select a state to investigate. Ask students to research what types of industry are the key economic drivers for their state. What industries do people rely on for personal income in the state?
3. Ask students to compare their state's median income to that of the states around it. Is it bigger or smaller? Why do students think this is? Have students draw conclusions about their state's main source of personal income based on their research.
4. Discuss why numbers matter with respect to the census in your state and county by downloading *Numbers Tell a Story* at www.census.gov/schools.



Map ideas

Get the most out of your wall map! Try one of these ideas.

- **FIND A FEATURE:** Give students a list of geographical features, such as skyscrapers, ski slopes, farms, national parks, or beaches, and ask students where they would expect to find each feature. *Why? Are there any features unique to a certain state?*

It's About Us **Mini-lessons**

Introduce the 2010 Census with these hands-on activities.

MINI-LESSON 3: Have a Seat

GOAL: To understand how the U.S. census affects representation



CIVICS

Directions:

1. Help students understand the importance of apportionment by studying the main map and locating the Population and Congressional Representatives Per State information.
2. Explain that every 10 years census data are used to allot seats in the House of Representatives among the states, which in turn affects the number of presidential electors each state has. Ask students to think about how these changes can affect state politics.
3. Ask students to look at the Teen Population Per State inset. How big is the teen population in your school's state? How does it compare to that of surrounding states?
4. As most of your students may be too young to vote (but ensure that they know they're counted in the census regardless of their age), ask them what they think they can do to get involved in the political process. Specifically, discuss what students under the age of 18 can do in their role as American citizens!
5. Help your students learn more about apportionment by downloading *Census and Apportionment* and *Mapping the Census* at www.census.gov/schools.

MINI-LESSON 4: Deciphering Data

GOAL: To decipher information about a particular area based on geographical facts



GEOGRAPHY

Directions:

1. Encourage students to look closely at the main map, Census 2000 Population: Persons Per County. Now ask that they look at the list, Largest and Smallest County Populations.
2. Split the students into groups and assign a county from the list to each group. Ask your students to look at both the main map and the Largest and Smallest County Populations inset, paying particular attention to where their assigned county falls geographically. Describe the county's relative and absolute locations. What is near the county—a city, a major body of water?
3. Ask each group to think about the following questions: Do more populated counties share any major geographic attributes? What geographic factors explain why the least populous counties are so sparsely populated?
4. Discuss the answers as a class, comparing the results offered by each group. For further discussion about the country's most populous and least populous counties, download *Numbers Tell a Story* at www.census.gov/schools.

■ **MAKE A NIGHTTIME MAP:** The lights from big cities can be seen from space. Use the **United States Demographics** map to create a nighttime map of the United States—the greater the population density, the brighter the spot!

■ **DESIGN AN ICON:** Invite students to design icons for geographical features such as the Rocky Mountains, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi River.

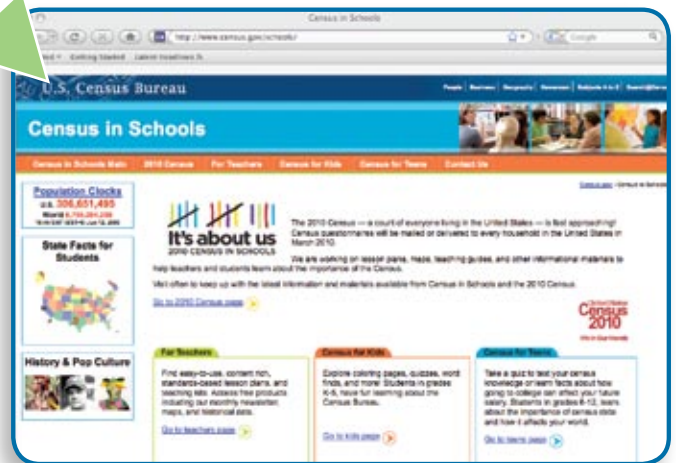
■ **ROUTE 48:** Challenge students to find a route that passes through every contiguous state without backtracking.

■ **STATELY STATISTICS:** Encourage your class to explore a state that is not their own. Ask students to research the geography, government, size, and recent census data for a state of their choice and then present their findings to the class.

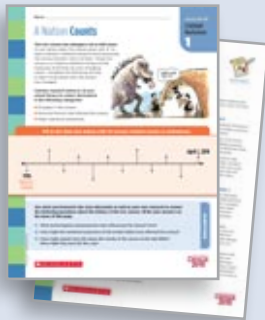
DOWNLOAD

the Census in Schools Program Today!

Don't miss out on the complete **Census in Schools lessons**. Visit **www.census.gov/schools** to download the free program tailored to high school social studies curriculum standards.



HOW THIS PROGRAM WILL HELP YOUR STUDENTS



HISTORY LESSONS:

- Review census data through a historical lens
- Examine how history affects the census and how the census affects history
- Discover how significant events in U.S. history have played a role in the census



CIVICS LESSONS:

- Explore the role we all play in the census
- Analyze how businesses, government, and individuals benefit from the census
- Promote involvement with local government and organizations



GEOGRAPHY LESSONS:

- Build map literacy skills through class discussions and interactive lessons
- Explore the geography of apportionment and redistricting
- Test map-making skills with hands-on, creative activities